

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Portage Creek Area - Removal Polrep



US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



436669

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region V**

**Subject:** POLREP #18  
Progress  
Portage Creek Area  
059B05  
Kalamazoo, MI  
Latitude: 42.2839750 Longitude: -85.5791570

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**From:** Paul Ruesch, On-Scene Coordinator

**Date:** 9/14/2012

**Reporting Period:** 9/01/2012 - 9/14/2012

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

|                            |              |                                |                |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Site Number:</b>        | 059B05       | <b>Contract Number:</b>        | EP-S5-09-05    |
| <b>D.O. Number:</b>        | 0087         | <b>Action Memo Date:</b>       | 7/5/2011       |
| <b>Response Authority:</b> | CERCLA       | <b>Response Type:</b>          | Time-Critical  |
| <b>Response Lead:</b>      | EPA          | <b>Incident Category:</b>      | Removal Action |
| <b>NPL Status:</b>         | NPL          | <b>Operable Unit:</b>          | 05             |
| <b>Mobilization Date:</b>  | 9/26/2011    | <b>Start Date:</b>             | 8/30/2011      |
| <b>Demob Date:</b>         |              | <b>Completion Date:</b>        |                |
| <b>CERCLIS ID:</b>         | MID006007306 | <b>RCRIS ID:</b>               | NA             |
| <b>ERNS No.:</b>           |              | <b>State Notification:</b>     | Yes            |
| <b>FPN#:</b>               |              | <b>Reimbursable Account #:</b> |                |

**1.1.1 Incident Category**  
Fund-lead removal action

**1.1.2 Site Description**  
See POLREP #1

**1.1.2.1 Location**

See POLREP #1

**1.1.2.2 Description of Threat**

See POLREP #1

**1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results**

See POLREP #1

**2. Current Activities****2.1 Operations Section****2.1.1 Narrative**

Dredging operations in SA5D (Upjohn Park) continued during this reporting period. Contaminated sediment removal and backfilling was completed in grids SA5D-9 to SA5D-13 by September 14. Visible gross contamination and elevated PCB test results at target excavation depths (see Sections 2.1.2 and 2.2.2) required additional excavation to meet the clean-up performance standard. Preparations are underway to begin dredging operations in SA5C immediately following completion of dredging/backfilling operations in SA5D.

**2.1.2 Response Actions to Date**

From September 1 to September 14, EPA, START and ERRS contractors conducted the following activities:

Site Activities - SA5D & SA5C

- Excavated contaminated sediments from grids SA5D-9 to SA5D-13 (see table below for details) and placed backfill materials / coir logs according to the site restoration plan;
- Conducted pre-construction soil sampling in SA5C on east bank working area;
- Fenced in working area in SA5C;
- Installed wooden platform working surface in SA5C on east bank between Crosstown Parkway and Vine Street to support heavy equipment;
- Installed sediment controls in creek channel in SA5C; and
- Began installation of isolation groundwater de-watering system in SA5C.

| GRID    | TOTAL<br>ESTIMATED<br>EXCAVATION<br>DEPTH (in) | FINAL<br>CONFIRMATION<br>PCB RESULT<br>(mg/kg) |
|---------|--|--|
| SA5D-9  | 60   | 0.13   |
| SA5D-10 | 60   | 0.045  |
| SA5D-11 | 60   | ND   |
| SA5D-12 | 50   | 0.14/<br>0.11 (dup)                            |
| SA5D-13 | 60   | ND   |

ND: non-detect    dup: duplicate sample location

Site Activities - Axtell Creek

- Installed coir logs on creek banks.

Site Activities - Staging Pad

- Solidified and loaded out approximately 1031 tons of TSCA (> 50ppm PCBs) contaminated sediments for disposal at Wayne Disposal landfill in Belleville, Michigan;
- Solidified and loaded out approximately 690 tons of non-TSCA (< 50ppm PCBs) contaminated sediments for disposal at C&C Landfill in Marshall, Michigan; and
- Treated 7,190 gallons of potentially contaminated contact water in EPA's mobile wastewater treatment plant, with a total of 478,273 gallons treated to date.

Project Management Activities

- Continued weekly progress meetings with City of Kalamazoo;
- Conducted data validation for additional post-removal confirmation sediment samples collected from SA5D;
- Conducted site walks in SA5A & SA3A to plan for contaminated sediment removal operations in 2013;
- Requested site access from property owner of residences on west bank of SA5A;
- Solicited bids for clearing and grubbing in SA5A;
- Reviewed post-excavation structural assessment for SA6;
- Begin development of seasonal site shut-down / demobilization plan; and
- Began discussions with property owners in SA3A regarding site access, preparation and restoration.

### 2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

The major PRP for this portion of the Allied Paper Inc./Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund site was dissolved through bankruptcy proceedings in April 2010. Other PRPs are being evaluated.

### 2.1.4 Progress Metrics

| <i>Waste Stream</i>             | <i>Medium</i>       | <i>Quantity</i> | <i>Manifest #</i>            | <i>Treatment</i> | <i>Disposal</i>                |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| TSCA contaminated sediments     | solidified sediment | 1031 tons (est) | 009077467JJK to 009077487JJK | disposal         | Wayne Disposal, Belleville, MI |
| Non-TSCA contaminated sediments | solidified sediment | 690 tons (est)  | NTSCA-145 to NTSCA-158       | disposal         | C&C Landfill, Marshall MI      |
| Scrap metal                     | solid               | 480 lbs         | NA                           | recycling        | Shupan Recycling               |

## 2.2 Planning Section

A summary of removal activities that will take place from September 15 through September 28 include:

### Site Activities - Staging Pad

- Continue de-watering and solidification of excavated sediments for transport;
- Continue transport of solidified sediments for disposal; and
- Continue treatment of contaminated water in EPA's mobile waste water treatment plant.

### Site Activities - SA7 & SA6

- Conduct restoration work (seeding, fertilizing, tree & brush planting) according to Restoration Plan.

### Site Activities - SA5D & SA5C

- Excavate, solidify and transport for disposal contaminated sediments from Portage Creek in grids SA5D-13 to SA5D-17 (between the Upjohn Park footbridge and Crosstown Parkway);
- Backfill and install coir logs in grids SA5D-13 to SA5D-17 according to Restoration Plan;
- Complete installation of isolation groundwater de-watering system in SA5C; and
- Excavate, solidify and transport for disposal contaminated sediments from Portage Creek in grids SA5C-1 to SA5C-7 (between Crosstown Parkway and Vine Street).

### Project Management Activities

- Continue weekly progress meetings with City of Kalamazoo;
- Conduct pre-construction sampling and contaminated sediment confirmation sampling of SA5A & SA3A; and
- Obtain access agreements for properties on west creek banks in SA5A and SA3A.

### 2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

See POLREP #2

#### 2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

See above

#### 2.2.1.2 Next Steps

See above

### 2.2.2 Issues

- Excavation of grids to initial target depths revealed visual paper pulp material. Therefore, many grids were over-excavated until that material was no longer visible. Grids SA5D-9 & SA5D-12 were sampled at the initial target depths (see table below), to verify that the suspected paper pulp material exceeded project performance standards. All confirmatory sample results from over-excavation in grids SA5D-9 to SA5D-13 were under the performance standard of 10 mg/kg as well as the performance standard goal of 1 mg/kg as listed below (see table).

| GRID    | INITIAL<br>TARGET<br>DEPTH<br>(in) | INITIAL<br>PCB<br>RESULT<br>(mg/kg) | OVER<br>DIG<br>(in) | TOTAL<br>ESTIMATED<br>DEPTH (in) | FINAL DEPTH<br>PCB RESULT<br>(mg/kg) |
|---------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| SA5D-9  | 30                                 | 1.02                                | 30                  | 60                               | 0.13                                 |
| SA5D-10 | 30                                 | --                                  | 30                  | 60                               | 0.045                                |
| SA5D-11 | 42                                 | --                                  | 18                  | 60                               | ND                                   |
| SA5D-12 | 42                                 | 2.45                                | 8                   | 50                               | 0.14/0.11 (dup)                      |
| SA5D-13 | 12                                 | --                                  | 48                  | 60                               | ND                                   |

ND: Non-detect    dup: duplicate sample location

- The additional over-excavation in grids SA5D-9 to SA5D-13 in Portage Creek resulted in increased costs and added expenses for personnel, equipment, transportation, disposal, sampling and backfill material.

### 2.3 Logistics Section

The current resources present on site during this reporting period include:

- Office trailers
- Portable restrooms and hand-washing stations
- Portable generators
- Submersible pumps
- Equipment storage container
- ERRS work crews and subcontractor work crews
- START sampling contractor
- Heavy equipment
- Water truck
- Street sweeper
- Mixing boxes
- Frac (water) tank
- Pressure wash trailer
- Bypass pumps and piping
- Sheet piling and steel bridge personnel support structures
- Mobile wastewater treatment plant
- Temporary steel bridge
- Monitoring Equipment

### 2.4 Finance Section

#### 2.4.1 Narrative

See table

#### Estimated Costs \*

|                           | Budgeted       | Total To Date  | Remaining      | % Remaining |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| <b>Extramural Costs</b>   |                |                |                |             |
| ERRS - Cleanup Contractor | \$5,700,000.00 | \$4,681,000.00 | \$1,019,000.00 | 17.88%      |

|                         |                |                |                |        |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------|
| TAT/START               | \$300,000.00   | \$225,000.00   | \$75,000.00    | 25.00% |
| <b>Intramural Costs</b> |                |                |                |        |
|                         |                |                |                |        |
| <b>Total Site Costs</b> | \$6,000,000.00 | \$4,906,000.00 | \$1,094,000.00 | 18.23% |

\* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

## 2.5 Other Command Staff

### 2.5.1 Safety Officer

Craig Thomas and Paul Ruesch serve as safety officer(s). The HASP is reviewed and signed by all site personnel. All new personnel, including sub-contractors, are provided a site orientation and safety briefing. Safety meetings are held each morning with all site workers.

Minor issues identified in the August 30 safety audit by Federal Occupational Health were addressed during this reporting period.

### 2.6 Liaison Officer

Craig Thomas and Paul Ruesch serve as liaison(s) with local officials and interested parties.

### 2.7 Information Officer

A local freelance photographer took photos of the excavation, creek bypass pumping and contaminated sediment removal load out operations for a documentary on Osprey in the Kalamazoo River system.

#### 2.7.1 Public Information Officer

See Section 2.6

#### 2.7.2 Community Involvement Coordinator

Don DeBlasio - U.S. EPA

## 3. Participating Entities

### 3.1 Unified Command

N/A

### 3.2 Cooperating Agencies

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality  
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
City of Kalamazoo:  
    Department of Public Services  
    Parks and Recreation Department  
    Economic Development Department  
    Community Planning & Development  
    Public Safety Department  
    Fire Department  
    Police Department  
    ReDevelopment Department  
Bronson Methodist Hospital  
Kalamazoo Nature Center

#### 4. Personnel On Site

U.S. EPA - 2  
 ERRS contractor (Environmental Quality Management, Inc) - 13  
 START contractor (Dynamac/Weston) - 1  
 CMC Contractors (excavation subcontractor) - 1  
 Rain for Rent (groundwater extraction subcontractor) - 3  
 Farm & Garden (fencing subcontractor) - 3

TOTAL PERSONNEL = 20

#### 5. Definition of Terms

C&D - Construction and Demolition (waste)  
 ERRS - Emergency and Rapid Response Services  
 FOSC - Federal On Scene Coordinator  
 U.S. FWS - United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
 HASP - Health and Safety Plan  
 HDPE - High density polyethylene (plastic)  
 mg/kg - milligrams per kilogram  
 mg/m<sup>3</sup> - milligrams per cubic meter  
 MDARD - Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development  
 MDEQ - Michigan Department of Environmental Quality  
 NA - Not Applicable  
 NOAA - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
 NPL - National Priorities List  
 NRDA - Natural Resource Damage Assessment  
 ntu - nephelometric turbidity units  
 PCB - polychlorinated biphenyl  
 ppm - parts per million  
 PRPs - Potentially Responsible Parties  
 RTK GPS - Real Time Kinematic Global Positioning System  
 SA - Slope Area  
 START - Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team  
 U.S. EPA - United States Environmental Protection Agency

#### 6. Additional sources of information

##### 6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

See the project website at <http://www.epaosc.org/portagecreekarea>.

##### 6.2 Reporting Schedule

The next POLREP will be generated in approximately 2 weeks.

#### 7. Situational Reference Materials

See the project website at <http://www.epaosc.org/portagecreekarea>.

Additional information on the overall Kalamazoo River Project can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/cleanup/kalproject/index.htm>.











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